



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, August 18, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

## Domestic Programs

**Grasshopper** - The grasshopper and Mormon cricket treatment season has been completed for 2003. PPQ protected a total of 719,212 acres with 408,695 acres protected for grasshoppers, and 310,517 acres protected for Mormon crickets. Treatments were done in nine states: Nebraska, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, California, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Washington. Insecticides used this treatment season were aerially applied dimilin, and aerial and ground applications of carbaryl bait. Most treatments were Reduced Agent and Area Treatments (RAATs), with skip swaths, thus reducing per acre costs and reducing the impact on nontarget organisms.

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**Giant Hogweed** - Plans have been made to treat a hogweed infestation in Acadia National Park on September 22, 2003. National Park Service officials have been very cooperative with PPQ and have requested agency training support so that they will be able to continue eradication procedures into the future. Staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) will participate in the treatment of the infestation.

New infestations of giant hogweed (GHW) in Maryland are being verified and treatments planned in a cooperative effort between PPQ and the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Several new GHW infestations were confirmed in Carbon County, Pennsylvania and plans for additional survey and treatments are being made cooperatively between PPQ and the PDA, Bureau of Plant Industry.

An Eastern Region GHW Survey is being considered among interested States and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is spearheading discussions that will be held with the Eastern and National Plant Boards in their

next meetings to generate support and interest for such a project in 2004. Source: Gary Clement

**Duck Lettuce** - Duck-lettuce, *Ottelia alismoides*, an aquatic Federal Noxious Weed (FNW), has been found in western Florida. It has previously been reported in CA, LA, and TX. This FNW was reported to IES as possibly an intentional introduction. Source: Paul Hornby

**National Invasive Species Council and Council Staff Activities Report** - USFWS Acting Invasive Species Coordinator Named: In July 2003, Ms. Jenny Ericson was named the Acting Invasive Species Program Coordinator for the USFWS. She can be reached at: (703) 358-2063; fax: (703) 358-1929 or e-mail: [jenny\\_ericson@fws.gov](mailto:jenny_ericson@fws.gov) (*Contact Chris Dionigi*).

**Forest Service Invasive Species Job** - On July 7, 2003, the USDA-Forest Service announced an interdisciplinary position opening for an Exotic Invasive Pest Specialist at the GS-13 level. This position is with the USDA-Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry, Office of the Area Director, Forest Health and Economics, located approximately 10 miles west of Philadelphia, in Newtown Square, PA. The incumbent will serve as the focal point and coordinator for exotic invasive pest-related activities undertaken in 20 Northeastern Area States by the Forest Health Protection office (*Contact Chris Dionigi or Noel Schneeberger of the US Forest Service 610-557-4121*). Contact: Al Tasker (301) 734-5708

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## Cotton Pest Programs

**Boll Weevil Eradication** — Six cotton growers in northeast Arkansas filed a lawsuit on August 4, 2003. These growers reside in the small portion of the State in which the Plant Board is implementing an eradication program, and charging growers a fee to cover the cost. The 65-page filing claims that the Plant Board does not have the authority to collect fees unless a referendum has passed.



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### Emergency Programs

Asian Longhorned Beetle - Federal and New York State program officials attending the National Plant Board meeting in Tacoma, WA, discussed the recent approval of \$7 million from emergency funds. The money will support survey contracts in the Manhattan and Islip areas, additional woody debris handling activities in Brooklyn and Queens, and restoration activities.

Federal and Illinois program officials are meeting this week to plan next year's activities and begin making demobilization plans. To date, no adult beetles or trees with active signs of infestation have been found in Illinois this year. If no finds occur this calendar year, this will be two years of negative survey in the satellite areas of Addison, Summit, O'Hare, and Park Ridge. These areas will be eligible to be removed for quarantine. Survey and treatment will continue in the Ravenswood, Kilbourn Park, and Loyola areas.

Last week, Lionel Mesnildrey, Plant Health Administrator for the European Commission, visited the ALB program in Chicago.

Emerald Ash Borer - Live emerald ash borer (EAB) adults were discovered on trees in a small garden center in Hicksville, in western Defiance County, OH. USDA identifier James Zablotny confirmed the specimens as EAB on August 12, 2003. Additional sites in the area have been found including an implement handle maker who reportedly has purchased approximately eight thousand ash logs from Michigan in the previous 12 month period.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) NW Ohio EAB survey team has begun a delimiting survey in and around the town of Hicksville. Employees from the EAB project in Brighton, MI will join this group during this week in order to assist with survey activities.

USDA and ODA officials will meet in Hicksville this week to view the infestation and discuss eradication plans for this area.

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Pest Detection - Plans for the National CAPS meetings continue to be made for December 1 - 6, 2003, in Las Vegas, NV. There has not been a National meeting since 1995 so this one is particularly important especially in light of the merger of AQI into the Department of Homeland Security. An agenda and meeting arrangements will be coming out shortly. Topics on the agenda include an overall view of the enhanced CAPS program, technology updates, economics of pest detection, and break out sessions for specific subjects. There will also be an area set aside for posters and information.

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